fair price shops. Several States have included additional items such as pulses, tea, salt, soap, matches, coarse grains, etc., for distribution through fair price shops.

New Deal to Farmers

*77. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give a new deal to the farmers by way of (i) a new formula to fix remunerative prices for their produce, (ii) provision of cheap and timely credit to them; (iii) making the Crop Loan Insurance Scheme more effective and beneficial in time, (iv) purposeful implementation of land reforms, (v) construction of a network of godowns in the rural areas to prevent distress sales and (vi) investing about 50 per cent of the 8th Plan outlays in agriculture and the rural areas as stated by the Prime Minister as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 1990; and

(b) if so, the outline and time schedule of each scheme?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are as under:—

(i) The Government has appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao to comprehensively review the methodology for determining the cost of production to make these realistic. The Committee will submit its interim report by 15th March, 1990, and its full report within a period of four months.

(ii) A multi-agency approach has been adopted as a National policy for providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers, particularly in the small and marginal categories, and other weaker section through cooperative credit institutions, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks. Agriculture credit is provided at concesnsional rates of interest.

(iii) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is under implementation wherever the State Governments have come forward to praticipate, covering wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses. All farmers aviling of crop loans for growing these crops are eligible for insurance coverage under the scheme Further, continuance of the Scheme beyond Rabi 1989-90 is under consideration.

(iv) The Government is considering a proposal to include land reform laws in the Ninth schedule of the constitution of India and a Constitutional Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the current Session of the Parliament.

(v) The Government is implementing a scheme for setting up of rural godowns to prevent distress sales of agricultural produce. A Master Plan for construction of warehouses and godowns is under preparation and is to be finalised by the end of March, 1990.

(vi) Investing about 50% of the plan outlays in agriculture and rural areas will be kept in view at the time of formulation and finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Reconstitution of DRUCC & ZRUCCS

*78. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reconstitute Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees and Zonal Railway Users

Consultative Committees of various railways;

(b) if so, by when these Committees are likely to be set up; and

(c) whether Government propose to include retired Government servants who are social workers also in the newly constituted Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees and Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made to constitute these Committees as early as possible.

(c) No. Sir. There is no such proposal since the constitution of these Committees does not specifically provide for inclusion of such a category of members.

Foreign Companies engaged in Export of Indian Workers

*79. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian and Foreign Companies exporting Indian workers to foreign countries;

(b) the number of workers exported by each of these companies during the last three years, and the number put of them working abroad and the number of them who were sent back;

(c) whether these companies export the workers on the pretext of completing their own jobs, but put them on jobs of other companies and extract huge amounts as commissions

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take any action against such companies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, recruitment of a citizen of India for employment in any country or place outside India can be made (a) through a recruiting agent competent to make such recruitment and (b) on the basis of a permit issued to the Employer under the provisions of Act. At present 1470 recruiting agents are registered with the Protector General of Emigrants. In addition, 86 project exporters have obtained permits from time to time for exporting workers. Details regarding the number of workers recruited for export by each agent/Permit holder are not readily available. However, the total number of workers, to whom emigration clearance was given in the last three years, is as follows:—

1987 . . .	1·25 lakhs
1988 . . .	1·70 lakhs
1989 . . .	1·26 lakhs]

As per the information available, no complaint has come to notice where workers exported by a Project Exporter have been surreptiously switched over from one employer to another.

Amendment to prevention of cruelty to Animals Act 1890

*80. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890; and